

# **An Overview of the National Research Initiative (NRI)**



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# National Research Initiative

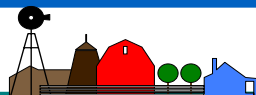
## Purpose:

High priority research and integrated activities in agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and rural communities

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# National Research Initiative Program Clusters

- Agricultural genomics and biosecurity
- Agricultural production and value added processing
- Nutrition, obesity, food safety and quality
- Agroecosystems and rural prosperity



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# National Research Initiative

- Fundamental and Mission-linked Research  
(Basic and Applied)
- Integrated Activities  
(Research, Education, and/or Extension)
- Single discipline or Multi-disciplinary
- Individual Investigator or Teams of Investigators

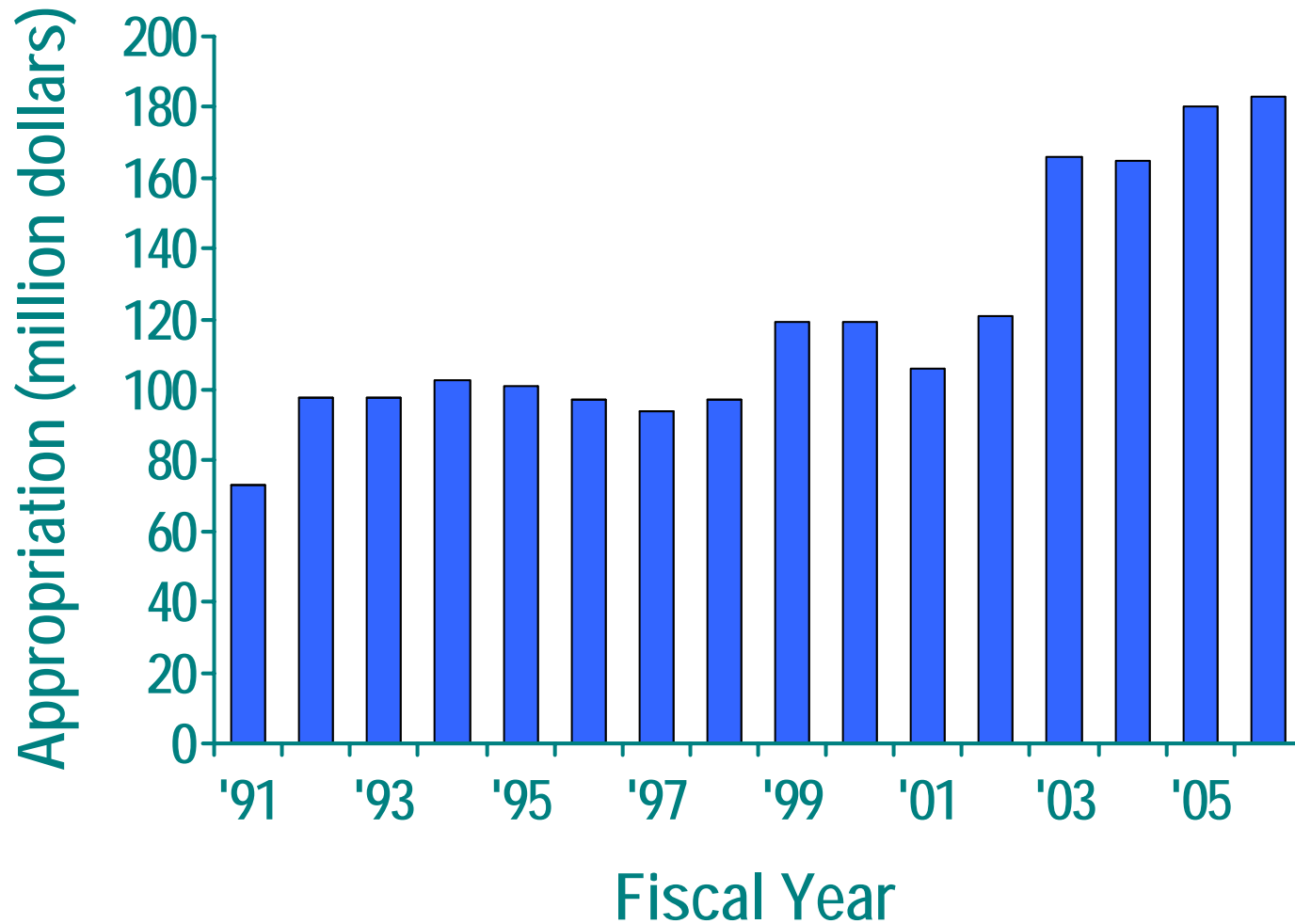
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# National Research Initiative

High priority research areas in  
agriculture, food and the environment

- Basic and mission-linked
- Single-discipline and multi-discipline
- Biological, physical, social, and economic sciences

# Congressional Appropriations for the NRI 1991 to 2006



# NRI FY 2006

- NRI budget appropriation of \$183.0 million (\$181 million post rescission)
- FY 2003 appropriations language provided an expanded authority to support a range of research, education, and extension activities with NRI funds

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# NRI Research Eligibility

State AES, all colleges and universities, other research institutions, Federal agencies, private organizations, corporations, and individuals

Indirect costs capped at 20%

Matching required only for equipment grants

# Types of NRI Research Proposals

- Standard Research Grants  
(open to all in U.S.)
- Conferences  
(open to all in U.S.)
- Agricultural Research Enhancement Awards (AREA)  
(certain restrictions apply, some set aside \$)
  - *Postdoctoral Fellowships*
  - *“Strengthening” Awards*
  - *New Investigator Awards (no set aside \$)*

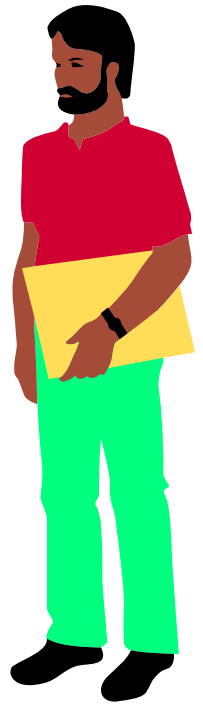
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# Coordinated Agricultural Project

- Designed to target specific gaps or make rapid progress on high priority areas
- Large Awards - \$3 million plus
- May be research or integrated depending on need
- Significant % of flexible funding

# NRI Standard Research Grants

- ▶ Fundamental or mission linked
- ▶ Individual or multiple investigators
- ▶ One or more disciplines
- ▶ Award upper limits range from \$300K to \$2.0M for 2-4 years



# NRI Conference Grants

- ▶ Scientific meetings that bring together scientists to identify research needs, update information, or advance an area of research.
- ▶ Submit to the most appropriate program area
- ▶ Awards up to \$10,000; joint funding with other agencies/organizations encouraged



# NRI AREA Awards

(Agricultural Research Enhancement Awards)

Proposal is submitted to NRI program that is best scientific fit

Proposal is reviewed with all other proposals submitted to that program



# NRI AREA Awards

(Agricultural Research Enhancement Awards)

## ***New Investigator:***

- <5 years career-track experience

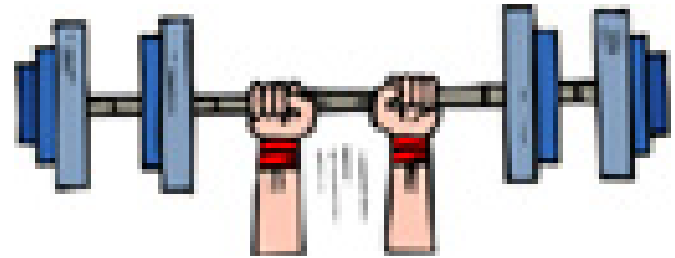
## ***Postdoctoral Fellowships:***

- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Ph.D. received after January 1, 2004, but no later than 9 months after program's proposal submission deadline



# Strengthening Awards

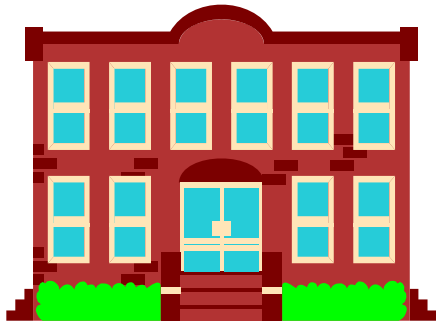
- **Standard Strengthening Research Award**  
Full-fledged research proposal eligible for funding from 10% of NRI funds set-aside for postdoctoral fellowships and strengthening awards
- **Research Career Enhancement Awards**  
(sabbaticals and mini-sabbaticals)
- **Seed Grants**
- **Equipment Grants**



# Strengthening Awards

## Who may qualify ? \*

**(1) Small & mid-sized institutions  
w/ limited institutional success:**



**15,000 or fewer students**

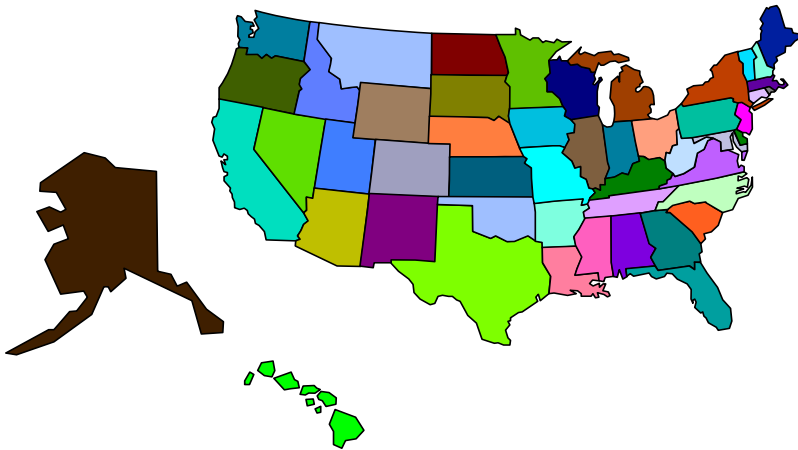
**AND**

**Not among most successful**

**\* Different rules apply for equipment grants**

# Strengthening Awards

## (2) EPSCoR States: Experimental Program for Stimulating Competitive Research



\* Plus the District of Columbia and all U.S. territories, commonwealths, possessions, and their successors.

AL	LA	SC
AK	ME	SD
AR	NJ	VT
DE	NV	WV
HI	NM	WY
ID	ND	*
KY	OK	

# Strengthening Awards

## (3) Equipment Grants:

- must be degree granting institution  
and
- not among “Top 100” most successful universities and colleges receiving federal funds for science and engineering research and development